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SENECIO PLANT NAMED 'SUNSENEBARE'

Botanical and commercial classification:

Senecio cruentus x *Senecio heritieri* *Senecio* Plant

Varietal denomination ev. Sunsenebare

5 BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new variety of *Senecio* plant, which originated from the crossing of [[a]] the *Senecio cruentus* cultivar 'Extra Rose' (unpatented) as the female parent and a variety of *Senecio heritieri* as the male parent.

10 There are many varieties in *Senecio* L. and *Senecio cruentus* well known as 'Cineraria' and cultivated in the world. There are ~~m~~Many of these cultivated varieties ~~have~~ with flowers capitula of a single color of white, pink red, blue or violet, while others. Some varieties have marginal variegation with off color parts.

Progress

15 The female parent 'Extra Rose' (unpatented) used in the crossing of which produced 'Sunsenebare' is a cultivar of *Senecio cruentus*. It is early flowering variety having a dwarf and mounding shape with large leaves. It has small single flowers capitula, the ~~petals~~ ray florets having a vivid purplish red color. The seed of 'Extra Rose' is commercially available.

20 The male parent *Senecio heritieri* used in the crossing of which produced 'Sunsenebare' is a cultivar of *Senecio heritieri*, having a high and dome-shaped growth habit with abundant branching ~~with~~ hand small leaves. It has small single flowers capitula, the ~~petals~~ ray florets having strong purple with vague white center coloration. *Senecio heritieri* was introduced into the United States from nurseries in England[[,]] and, to Applicant's knowledge, has no variety name and is ~~not~~ neither patented nor sold in the United States.

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In January 1996, a crossing of 'Extra Rose' as the female parent and *Senecio heritieri* as the male parent was conducted at Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan. The seedlings obtained from that crossing were grown in pots in glasshouses and evaluated from July 1996. One seedling was selected in view of its growth habit, flower color and flowering time in December 1996. That seedling was propagated by cutting and a trial was grown in pots for trialing carried out by flower potting from July 1999, at Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using similar varieties 'Sunsenere' (U.S. Plant Patent[[.]] Number[[o.]] 12,162) and 'Midget' (unpatented) for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this *Senecio* plant is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known to us, and is uniform and stable in its characteristics. Then the new variety of *Senecio* plant was named 'Sunsenebare'.

In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart).

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety is unlike any *Senecio* commercially available known to the inventor as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

1. Semi-dwarf, obconical plant shape having abundant branching with small leaves.
2. The flowerscapitula are single and small. The petalsray florets and diskdisc floret color is vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S. 78A).
3. Blooming time is early, and flowering duration is long.
4. Having low fertility.

The new variety 'Sunsenebare' differs from the similar variety 'Sunsenere' in the following points.

1. The plant of 'Sunsenebare' is more compact than that of 'Sunsenere'.

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2. The flowercapitulum diameter of 'Sunsenebare' is smaller than that of 'Sunsenere'.
3. The peduncle length of 'Sunsenebare' is shorter than that of 'Sunsenere'.
- 5 4. The blooming time of 'Sunsenebare' is earlier than that of 'Sunsenere'.

The new variety 'Sunsenebare' differs from the similar variety 'Midget' in the following points.

1. The plant size of 'Sunsenebare' is larger than that of 'Midget'.
2. ~~Number of~~the branches of 'Sunsenebare' ~~is~~are more numerous than 10 that of 'Midget'.
3. The leaf of 'Sunsenebare' is smaller than that of 'Midget'.
4. The petalray floret and diskdisc floret color of 'Sunsenebare' is vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S. 78A). 'Midget' has vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S. 74A) petalray florets and strong reddish purple (near R.H.S. 72A) diskdisc florets.
- 15 5. The blooming time of 'Sunsenebare' is earlier than that of 'Midget'.
6. The flowering duration of 'Sunsenebare' is longer than that of 'Midget'.

This new variety of Senecio [[P]]plant 'Sunsenebare' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings at Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan, and the homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. The instant plant 20 retains its distinctive characteristics and reproduces true to type in successive generations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during January 2003 while growing outdoors in 12 cm pots at an age 25 of approximately 5 months at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

FIG. 1 illustrates a typical plant of the new variety of Senecio plant 'Sunsenebare', growing in a pot.

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FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of ~~flowers~~capitula of the new variety of Senecio plant 'Sunsenebare'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of Senecio plant named 'Sunsenebare' are as follows, when observed during January at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, at an age of approximately 5 months.

5 Plant:

Growth habit. - Semi-dwarf, obconical.

10 Height. - Approximately 25.5 cm.

Width. - Approximately 19 cm.

15 Stem:

Length. - Approximately 15cm.

Thickness. - Approximately 4.2 mm.

Color. - Near R.H.S. 144A (strong yellow green).

15 Anthocyanin coloration. - Absent.

BranchingNumber of branches. - Abundant.

Type of primary lateral shoot. - Branch from every node.

Pubescence. - Moderate.

Length of internode. - Approximately 1.6 cm.

20 Leaf:

Whole shape. - Cordate.

Leaf margin. - Dentate, undulated.

Apex shape. - Obtuse.

Base shape. - Cordate.

25 Degree of undulation. - Moderate.

Length. - Approximately 8.2 cm.

Width. - Approximately 9.3 cm.

Diameter of petiole. - Approximately 3.1 mm.

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Length of petiole. - Approximately 6.7 cm.

Color of petiole. - Near R.H.S. 144B

Color of upper surface. - Near R.H.S. 144A (~~strong yellow-green~~).

Color of reverse surface. - Near R.H.S. 139D (~~moderate yellow-green~~).

5 Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface. - Absent.

Pubescence of upper surface - Moderate.

Pubescence of reverse surface. - Dense.

Pattern of venation. - Reticulate venation.

Color of venation. - Near R.H.S. 138B.

10 Stipule. - Absent.

Flower cluster (Gathering of corymbs):

Type of flower - Single.

Shape of flower cluster. - Flat.

Diameter of flower cluster. - Approximately 33 cm.

15 Height of flower cluster. - Approximately 19 cm.

Capitulum:

Transected shape of corollacapitulum. - Flat.

Diameter of flowercapitulum. - Approximately 4.1 cm.

Diameter of disktire disc. - Approximately 0.9 cm.

20 Color of petalray floret. - Upper side: near R.H.S. 78A; Lower surface
- near R.H.S. N74C (vivid reddish purple).

Disc floret:

Shape. - Tubular, trumpet shape.

Color (both surfaces). - Near R.H.S. 78A to 77C.

25 Length. - Approximately 8.5 mm.

Diameter. - Approximately 1.0 mm.

Margin. - 5 lobed, star shape.

Apex shape. - Acute.

Base shape. - Fused.

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Marginal variegation. - Absent.

Ray floret:

—Color of disk flower. - R.H.S. 78A (vivid reddish purple).

Petal Length. - Approximately 1.6 cm.

5 Petal wWidth. - Approximately 0.5 cm.

Shape of Petal. - Oblong.

Base shape. - Obtuse.

Margin. - Entire.

Texture. - Velvety.

10 Lengthwise warp of Petal. - Flat.

Shape of petal tip. - Acute.

Number of ray flowersflorets.- 13 (single whorl).

Number of disk flowersdisc florets. - Approximately 110.

Diameter of pedicel. - Approximately 1.1 mm.

15 Length of pedicel. - Approximately 2.2 cm.

Pedicel color. - Near R.H.S. N77C

Number of flowerscapitula per flower clusterplant. - Abundant Approximately

120.

Scent. - Present.

20 Bud:

Hardiness. - Tolerant to 0°C. However, the plant would be seriously damaged by frost, the same as other Senecio plants, at any temperature.

Length. - Approximately 6.0 mm.

Diameter. - Approximately 6.0 mm.

25 Shape. - Globose.

Surface. - Smooth.

Color. - Near R.H.S. 144A

Involucre:

Type. - Bracts in a whorl, fused at the base, outwardly recurved.

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Length of bracts (separated portion). - Approximately 2.0 mm.

Width of bracts (separated portion). - Approximately 1.0 mm.

Number of bracts per capitulum. - Approximately 14

Margin of bracts. - Entire.

5 Apex shape of bracts. - Acute.

Color (both surfaces). - Near R.H.S. 143C (moderate yellow-green).

Anthocyanin coloration (both surfaces). - Absent.

Pistil:

Color. - Near R.H.S. 80A (vivid reddish purple).

10 Number. - 1 per ray and disc floret.

Type. - Style branches truncate.

Stamen:

Pollen. - Moderate, color near R.H.S. 10A.

Color. - Near R.H.S. 71A (deep purplish red).

15 Type. - Synantherous. A disc floret has 5 connate anthers with separated filament. Ray floret has no stamen.

Blooming time. - Beginning of November (cutting in July) to May. In Japan, plant starts flowering about 5 months after planting rooted cuttings.

Lastingness of an individual bloom on the plant. - Approximately 2 weeks at around 15°C.

Hardiness:

Cold. - Good.

Heat. - Good.

Resistance:

25 Disease. - Good.

Insect. - Good.

The new variety and *Senecio cruentus* have similar resistance to powdery mildew, leaf spot, aphid, whitefly and thrips. The new variety[[],] 'Sunsenebare'[[],] is most suitable for flower potting.

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It is claimed:

A new variety of Senecio plant named 'Sunsenebare', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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SENECIO PLANT NAMED 'SUNSENEBARE'

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed herein is a new variety of Senecio plant having a semi-dwarf, obconical shaped with abundant branching and small leaves. The ~~flowers~~capitula are single and small, the ~~petals~~ray florets and the ~~disk~~disc florets having vivid reddish purple color. The blooming time is early and flowering duration is longer than *Senecio cruentus*. 'Sunsenebare' has low fertility.